

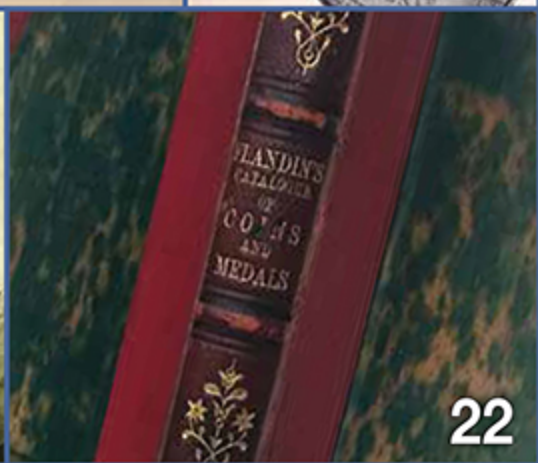
# THE Asylum

VOL. 39 NO. 4



WINTER 2021

Quarterly Journal of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society • COINBOOKS.ORG



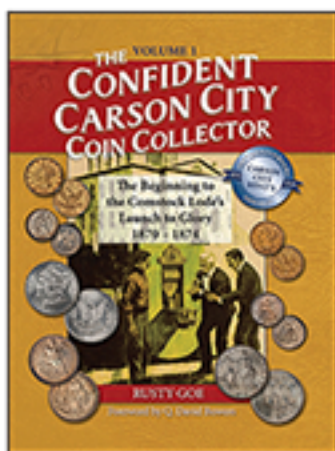
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## The Confident Carson City Coin Collector

By Rusty Goe

*Numismatic Literary Guild's  
2021 Book of the year*

Rusty Goe's new three-volume set, *The Confident Carson City Coin Collector*, provides a time-capsule glimpse of all the knowledge available for discovery about the Carson City Mint's history and the coins that have survived from that place leading up to the 150th anniversary (2020) of the mint's opening in January 1870. Just about anything anyone would want to know about the mint and its coins can be found in these three volumes.



## Ancient Coins in Early American Auctions, 1869-1939

By David F. Fanning

A bibliography and analysis of American auction catalogues issued before the Second World War that feature photographically printed illustrations of ancient coins. Includes biographical material concerning the dealers whose catalogues are discussed, as well as a statistical analysis of the catalogues and supplementary information relevant to provenance research.

*"brings to light an area of American numismatic history that has long been forgotten"* —Q. David Bowers

*Collectors of ancient coins will find this well-illustrated volume essential for provenance research, and numismatists in general will enjoy a guided tour through the world of 19th-century American coin dealers.* —Joel J. Orosz

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# THE Asylum

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## Table of Contents

### NBS News

Renew Your NBS  
Membership. . . Insert  
(check your mail-  
ing envelope for the  
expiration date of your  
membership)

Message from  
the President . . . . . 3

Become an NBS  
Sustaining Member . . . . 3

NBS Podcast,  
*BiblioTalk* . . . . . 10

BiblioFiles . . . . . 10

### Features

Edward Tomlinson Fort (1961—2021) . . . . . 5  
By Pete Smith

Published Numismatic Articles by E. Tomlinson Fort. . . 8  
Compiled by David F. Fanning

BiblioFiles: Edward Banning. . . . . 11

The Origin of *Coins* Magazine . . . . . 13  
By David W. Lange

The Legacy of Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich. . . . . 17  
By David F. Fanning

ASSOCIATIONS: *Autographs* • *Annotations* • *Inscriptions*  
Charles Ira Bushnell's *Flandin's Catalogue of Coins and*  
*Medals: Part I, The Catalog and its Creator* . . . . . 22  
By Joel J. Orosz



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Autumn Issue (No. 3) August 23 (After ANA)  
Winter Issue (No. 4) November 1

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Tom Harrison  
NBS President

## Message from the President

We numismatic bibliophiles acquire our prized volumes for research tools, windows into the history of the hobby or worthy collectables themselves. For most of us, our motives are a combination of these to one degree or another. Indeed, it is the fortunate numismatist who has discovered the value and enjoyment of augmenting their collecting specialty with pertinent reference works, auction catalogs and ephemeral items. Not only do these special items deepen our knowledge and understanding of our chosen numismatic specialty, they also provide an opportunity to physically witness the evolution of the organization and scholarship in a chosen area. Holding an original Crosby on colonials or a set of Jamesons on ancients will certainly enhance the readers' appreciation of their field of study. An inscribed or annotated copy only adds spice to the mix and provides a sense of pride for the custodian.

NBS members are certainly aware of these benefits to their collecting endeavors. As you have the opportunity, please consider sharing your enthusiasm for numismatic literature with friends in your local, regional or specialty clubs. Invite them to join the NBS and discover the captivating world of numismatic literature. Like all NBS members, once they are introduced to the merits of adding this fascinating branch of the hobby to their collecting experience, they will be exponentially enriched.

May your numismatic library provide investigation, discovery and, most of all, enjoyment.



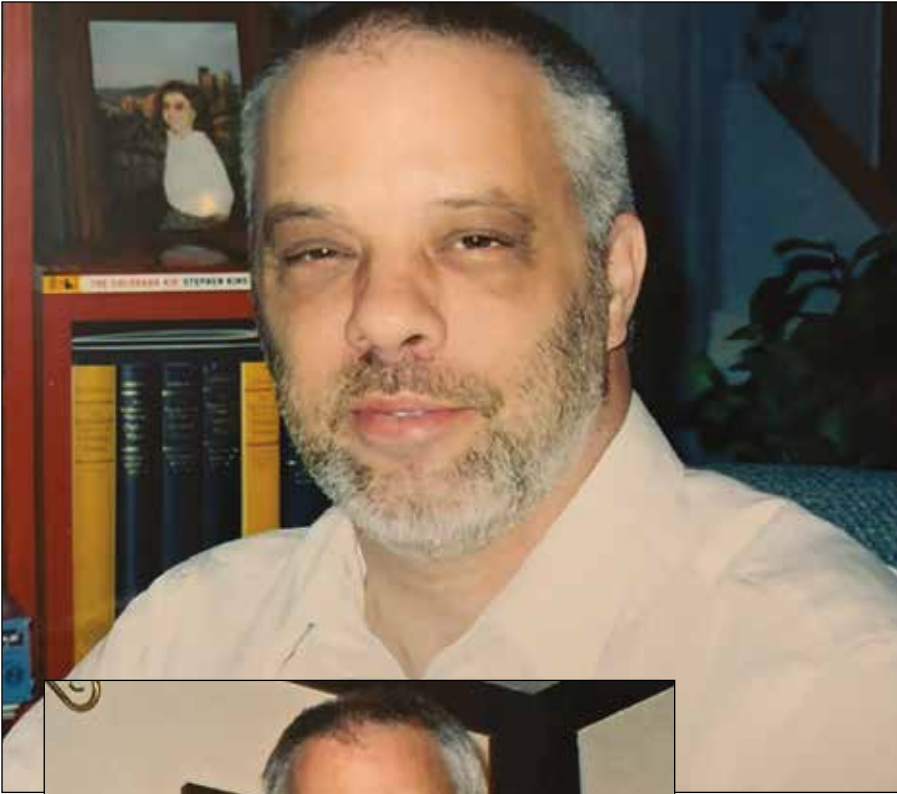
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Established in 1979, the Numismatic Bibliomania Society's purpose is to stimulate interest in collecting numismatic literature and cultivate cooperation among collectors and researchers. The NBS has a rich history of generous members who have supported its mission over the years.

The NBS would be truly grateful for your donation to help sustain our role in the numismatic community. As a 501(c)3 organization, all donations to the NBS are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

***Become a Sustaining Member or  
make a one-time donation today.***

Contact NBS Treasurer Chuck Heck at [treasurer@coinbooks.org](mailto:treasurer@coinbooks.org).



Tom Fort and his wife  
Gosia

# Edward Tomlinson Fort (1961–2021)

By Pete Smith

Previously published in *The E-Sylum*, Volume 24, Number 41, October 10, 2021

Tom Fort was born on September 14, 1961, the son of James Tomlinson Fort and Judith A. Davis. James was an attorney and senior partner with the Pittsburgh law firm of Reed, Smith, Shaw and McClay for more than fifty years.

Tom attended Penn State University 1980 to 1985 and received a B.A. in European History. He went to Scotland and attended University of St. Andrews during 1985–1987 where he earned a Master's degree in Medieval History and Numismatics. Later at St. Andrews he was a tutor in Medieval History from 1988 to 1990.

Returning to Penn State University at New Kensington, he was an adjunct Associate Professor in ancient and medieval history from 1990 to 1995. He was also an Adjunct Associate Professor at La Roche College in Pittsburgh from 1993 to 1995. In 1995, Tom married Malgorzata Mozer (Gosia), of Polish ancestry. She has a Doctor of Humanities degree and manages rare book preservation and special collections at the University of Pittsburgh. They have a daughter Annamaria.

Temporarily out of school, Tom worked as assistant editor for *The AAA Motorist*, a publication of the American Automobile Association, East Central, 1995 to 2001.

I wish I could date my first contact with Tom Fort. At one time the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists offered a travel grant for research related to Pennsylvania numismatics. I was researching the Eckfeldt family and submitted an application. A letter of acknowledgement came back from Tom Fort. I did not receive the grant.

Tom was recruited to be editor of *The Asylum*, the journal of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society, starting in October, 1999. After I became president of NBS, he would send me an advance copy of the newsletter. I would review it, and we would talk about it on the phone. Of all my duties as president, managing publication of the newsletter took the most time. Tom promoted and edited the massive twenty-fifth anniversary edition of *The Asylum* in Summer 2004 (Vol. XXII, No. 3). When Tom resigned after two issues in 2006, we found a replacement in David Yoon as of the January 2007 issue.

Tom and Wayne Homren organized The Great Numismatic Libraries of Pittsburgh Tour on Friday, August 20, 2004. Tom's contribution was The E. Tomlinson Fort "Memorial" Library with his specialty on ancient and medieval numismatics. Off to one side was the Doc Savage annex. The twenty-four people who attended were listed in *The Asylum* (Vol. XXII, No. 4, page 369).

Relieved of his duties as editor, Tom did post-graduate studies in European History and Roman Culture at the University of Pittsburgh 2007 to 2009.

Tom's list of memberships includes the British Numismatic Society, the Royal Nu-

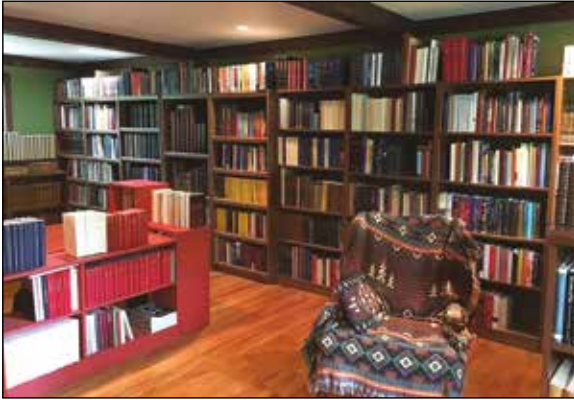
mismatic Society, Société Française de Numismatique, and the American Numismatic Society (of which he was a fellow). His local memberships include the Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society and the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists. Tom had several scholarly articles published on his specialties of ancient and medieval numismatics. Outside of numismatics, he was a benefactor of the U.S. Chess Federation.

Tom was troubled with health problems in recent years and died on October 5, 2021.

## *Remembrances*

Wayne Homren writes:

I've known Tom so long that I've forgotten where we first met. It was likely a local meeting of the Pittsburgh Numismatic Society or the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists. Two collectors meeting at a coin club is no big coincidence. But what are the odds of this? Before long, I learned he had an apartment in the same suburban building as my then-girlfriend, and a few years later we found ourselves living on the same city street. As Tom delighted in pointing out, there were two major numismatic libraries within a couple blocks of each other, and there were probably only a dozen titles in common between them. Tom's specialty was medieval coinage, and my interests were mainly American.



Here's a photo of his library in the home purchased after marrying Gosia. This was one of the stops of the 2004 event. I always told Tom he was my numismatic bibliophile hero—he married a librarian!

Tom's favorite medieval ruler was King Offa, hence his catchy license plate.



Tom was a natural Anglophile and returned to visit London and Scotland whenever a trip could be arranged. Spending a number of months in London in 2007 turned me into an Anglophile, as well. While I never picked up the medieval coin collecting bug, that was one more thing we had in common.

It's such a shame to lose him so early. I'd been looking forward to seeing him on my planned trip to Pittsburgh this month. Rest in peace, Tom. Continue your researches in the library of Heaven, and give our regards to your old friend Offa.

Larry Korchnak writes:

Tom's background in history and interest in coins made him the consummate numismatist. It was no surprise to me that he was drawn to books, given his inquisitive nature. Tom was always eager to share his knowledge by presenting at local coin club meetings and enlightening the members with his newest volume or medieval coin acquisition. His quick wit was engaging and he never lost his sense of humor even as he endured numerous medical procedures. The hobby has lost a true gentleman and scholar; I lost a friend.

Douglas Saville writes:

I was really saddened to hear of the passing of Tom Fort. I regarded Tom as a good long-standing friend. When he was based at St. Andrews in the mid-1980s he would often travel to London and visit me in Spinks—and buy a book or two. He was always enthusiastic about his studies in St. Andrews. He was enthusiastic about everything, actually. He stayed there until the early 1990s tutoring in Medieval history.

In all things he was so positive that I was almost in awe at how he could be that way. He had numerous long-standing health issues. After he settled back in Pittsburgh he would often call me with updates on what he was doing, his family, Gosia and his daughter. He was proud of both.

He had planned a trip to Scotland just before lockdown, so that was cancelled, but he re-planned it for this year, but ill health stopped that. He was looking forward to the trip next year—visiting old haunts in Scotland and a trip or two to London, Oxford and to me in Reading. I am really sad that it won't happen now.

David Fanning writes:

I was shocked to learn of Tom Fort's death this week, as I had just visited him five or six weeks ago. While I was aware of his various health problems, he seemed his usual self and it was good to see him and catch up on things. I always admired his meticulously arranged library—or, I should say, libraries, as his comic library was nearly as extensive as his numismatic library. The neatness of his shelves and their pleasing organization always made me cringe a bit when thinking of the relative chaos of my own.

I probably met Tom in 2000 at a PAN show. He served as the Editor of *The Asylum* from 1999 to 2006, and I joined him as Editor in Chief in 2001, working with him for the next five years. Together, we produced the Summer 2004 special book-length issue published for the NBS's 25th anniversary, though as I was bogged down compil-

ing my bibliography of Breen included within, I suspect most of the actual work fell to Tom. He was always energetic and brought a keen intelligence to everything he did. He will be missed by many, and my heart goes out to Gosia and Annamaria.

## Published Numismatic Articles by E. Tomlinson Fort

Compiled by David F. Fanning

Tom Fort (1961–2021) was a specialist in the coinage and monetary history of Scotland, as well as of England during the Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Norman periods, with strong additional interests in Roman Republican coinage and medieval European coins in general. He published articles on history as well as on numismatics, and presented papers at conferences at home and abroad. Notably, he served as editor of the *Proceedings of the Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society* in 1994 and edited *The Asylum* from 1999 through 2006.

The following is a listing of Fort's published numismatic articles (generally not including letters, reviews or editorials). In addition, we note that one conference presentation, "Barbarians within the Gates: David I of Scotland and the Mints of Northern England," was published on DVD in 2004 by the American Numismatic Association and has been archived on the Newman Numismatic Portal.

"Two More Ninth Century Imitations of Mercian Coins." *Numismatic Circular*, Vol. 98, No. 7 (September 1990), page 231.

"Some Notes on the Ship Coinage of Athelstan I of East Anglia." *Numismatic Circular*, Vol. 99, No. 3 (April 1991), pages 80–82.

"A 'Mule' of Offa, King of the Mercians, 757–796." *Numismatic Circular*, Vol. 99, No. 6 (July–August 1991), pages 183–184.

"The Coinage of Beorhtric, King of the West Saxons, 786–802." *Classical Numismatic Review*, Vol. 17, No. 1 (1992), pages 4–5 and 44.

"INVICTA ROMA: The Mint of Rome under Odovacar and the Ostrogoths, A.D. 476–554." *The Clarion*, Vol. 11, No. 3 (October 1994), pages 19–30. Reprinted as "Barbarians and Romans: The Mint of Rome under Odovacar and the Ostrogoths, A.D. 476–554" in the September 1999 issue of *The Celator* (see below).

"Good Help Is Hard to Find: Some Notes Regarding the Moneyers, Die Cutters and the Production of Coinage at the Mint of London in and after the Reign of Coenwulf of Mercia (796–821)." *The Clarion*, Vol. 12, No. 3 (July/August 1995), pages 18–29 and continued in Vol. 12, No. 4 (December 1995), pages 21–30. Reprinted in the November 2002 issue of *The Celator* (see below).

- “The Abbey of Peterborough and the Mint of Stamford in the Late Anglo-Saxon Period: A Commentary on the Historical Evidence.” *The Clarion*, Vol. 13, No. 1 (1996), pages 16–30.
- “An Interview with a Modern Forger of Ancient Coins.” *The Clarion*, Vol. 13, No. 2 (July 1996), pages 12–13 (with Małgorzata Fort).
- “The Badge of Phanes: Notes on the Historical and Numismatic Evidence.” *The Celator*, Vol. 10, No. 8 (August 1996), pages 18–23.
- “Barbarians and Romans: The Mint of Rome under Odovacar and the Ostrogoths, A.D. 476–554.” *The Celator* Vol. 13, No. 9 (September 1999), pages 20–38. Reprinted from the October 1994 issue of *The Clarion*, where it had appeared as “INVICTA ROMA: The Mint of Rome under Odovacar and the Ostrogoths, A.D. 476–554” (see above).
- “Good Help Is Hard to Find: Some Notes Regarding the Moneyers, Die Cutters and the Production of Coinage at the Mint of London in and after the Reign of Coenwulf of Mercia (796–821).” *The Celator*, Vol. 16, No. 11 (November 2002), pages 6–26. Reprinted from the 1995 volume of *The Clarion* (see above).
- “De Historia et Numismatica.” *The Asylum*, Vol. 21, No. 1 (Winter 2003), pages 36–40.
- “A Union of Three Numismatic Scholars.” *The Asylum*, Vol. 21, No. 2 (Spring 2003), pages 60–64.
- “Numismatic Literature Bibliography 2000–2003.” *The Asylum*, Vol. 21, No. 3 (Summer 2003), pages 102–104.
- “A Numismatic Item Relating to the Career of Edward Gibbon.” *The Clarion*, Vol. 20, No. 3 (December 2003), pages 17–25.
- “A Bibliography of the Published Works of John J. Ford.” *The Asylum*, Vol. 23, No. 3 (Summer 2005), pages 117–119.
- “Kenneth Jenkins: 1919–2005.” *The Asylum*, Vol. 23, No. 2 (Summer 2005), pages 122–124. Later reprinted in the December 2005 issue of *The Celator* (see below).
- “Kenneth Jenkins: 1919–2005.” *The Celator*, Vol. 19, No. 12 (December 2005), page 32. Previously published in the Summer 2005 issue of *The Asylum* (see above).
- “Sir Frank Merry Stenton and the Coinage of the Anglo-Saxons.” *The Asylum*, Vol. 24, No. 2 (2006), pages 41–44.
- “An Alexander III Sterling of the Kinghorn Mint.” *The Clarion*, Vol. 32, No. 3 (October 2015).
- “The Gold Medal of Theodoric the Great, King of the Ostrogoths (AD 493–526).” *PAN eNews*, Vol. 7, No. 1 (March 2018), page 5 [with link to full article online].
- “A Silver Denarius of Gaius Julius Caesar,” *PAN eNews*, Vol. 6, No. 4 (October 2017), page 4.
- “Charles I.” *PAN eNews*, Vol. 7, No. 2 (May 2018), pages 8–9.
- “A Silver Half-Penny of John Baliol.” *PAN eNews*, Vol. 7, No. 3 (August 2018), pages 5–6.
- “A Silver Tetradrachm of the City of Kyme in Aeolis.” *PAN eNews*, Vol. 8, No. 1 (March 2019), pages 6–7.



# Calling all Bibliomaniacs

## We want to get to know you better!



Reach out to your fellow bibliomaniacs by creatively answering a few of the questions below. Email your answers with a portrait photo to *The Asylum* Editor Maria Fanning at [asylum@coinbooks.org](mailto:asylum@coinbooks.org).

Please keep your submission to a 350 word maximum—including questions.



What is your name (and nicknames)?

Where do you live (i.e. town, state, country, in a palace, on a farm, by a lake, with three cats)?

Where are you most likely to be found (i.e. in your library, a bookshop, hiking in a park)?

What is your area of special numismatic interest?

What is your favorite numismatic reference (i.e. book, periodical, catalogue, website)?

What is an area outside of your specialty that you would like to know more about?

Are you working on any special projects right now (please summarize briefly)?

If you could meet someone from numismatic history, who would it be?

If you could visit anywhere at any time, where and when would it be?

What book, coin or event sparked your interest in building a numismatic library?

Is your library mainly for research or do you primarily consider your literature as a collectible itself?

If there is one thing you would like other numismatic bibliomaniacs to know about you, what would it be?

## NBS Bibliotalk

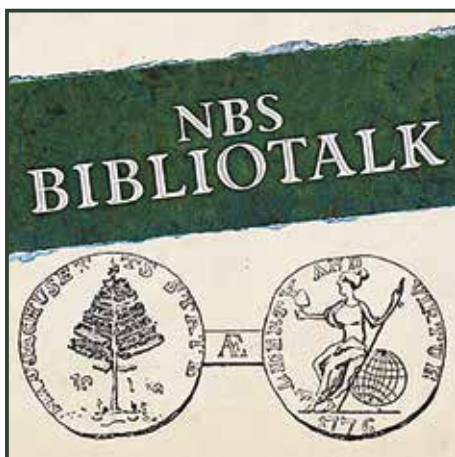
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*Episode 11 - "A Top 100 Library",  
with Leonard Augsburger and Joel Orosz*

*Episode 10 - "Napoleonic Medals",  
with Marc Charles Ricard*

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# The BiblioFiles

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## Edward Banning



I'm Edward (Ted) Banning and I live in Toronto, Canada, where I'm a professor of archaeology at University of Toronto.

Q: *What is your area of special numismatic interest?*

A: Although I used to collect pre-Meiji Japanese coins, since about 2010, my main numismatic interest has been the early history of numismatics in Canada, along with coins, tokens, medals, banknotes, and postal history associated with early Canadian coin collectors and dealers. I define those broadly as people who spent a significant portion of their lives in Canada, as many of them were born elsewhere or were born in Canada and later moved to the U.S. By "associated," I mean that they designed, issued, signed, or are named on the pieces. This includes outright numismatists' "cards" as well as lots of medals and even some counterstruck coins.

Q: *What is your favorite numismatic reference?*

A: It's hard to pick a favorite, but I make a lot of use of [archive.org](http://archive.org), early issues of *The Numismatist* and *Canadian Antiquarian*, and Breton's *Illustrated History of Coins and Tokens Relating to Canada*.

Q: *Are you working on any special projects right now?*

A: My major numismatic project for the past decade is a book on early Canadian numismatists and the tokens, medals, banknotes, etc. that they designed, issued or are named on. It's approaching completion, currently including about 90 numismatists as well as several early numismatic societies and the Tom Elder pieces relating to Canada.

Q: *If you could meet someone from numismatic history, who would it be?*

A: I expect it would be R. W. McLachlan. I have lots of questions for him.

Q: *What book, coin or event sparked your interest in building a numismatic library?*

A: I think it started with my trying to find copies of auction sales with parts of the Joseph Hooper collection. In the process of tracking that down, I wound up building a library of things relating to my book project, including auction catalogs, early numismatic and philatelic periodicals, and books and pamphlets by folks like Sandham, McLachlan, Hart, McColl, and Paquet.

Q: *Is your library mainly for research or do you primarily consider your literature as a collectible itself?*

A: Although it clearly started out to support the research for my book project, I must confess that I caught the collecting bug along the way. Now many of the things in my library are available on [archive.org](http://archive.org), but I still like to have a hard copy.



# The Origin of *Coins* Magazine

By David W. Lange

As I've reported here a number of times, I collect and study old hobby periodicals from the past 80–90 years to enhance my knowledge of coin albums and related material. One of the more interesting periodicals has a history going back to 1955, though it has been known as simply *Coins* since 1962. As this magazine is about to complete its 60th volume under that title, I thought it would be interesting to study its “pre-history.”

This publication began as a humble newsletter titled *The Flying Eaglet* and was produced by Frank G. Spadone. If numismatic bibliophiles know his name at all it's most likely from his book titled *Major Variety and Oddity Guide*, which went through several editions throughout the 1960s. This book, however, debuted as he was about to retire from producing his popular periodical. *The Flying Eaglet* was published in Spadone's hometown of East Orange, New Jersey and underwent several changes of title between 1955 and 1962. As it grew in page count it was renamed *The Coin News* in 1959 and *The Coin Press Magazine* in 1960. With the October 1961 issue it became simply *Coin Press* after Spadone sold his publication to Chet Krause of *Numismatic News* fame. Krause Publications was expanding at that point, and Spadone had been struggling to keep his magazine going. Though it had expanded greatly since 1955, the advertising revenue was not sufficient for him to sustain it, as Spadone explained in the editorial from the September 1961 issue reproduced below. Chet Krause's publisher message from the October issue completes the transition in ownership.

**FROM YOUR EDITOR'S DESK . . .**

**NOTICE** — Your Next Issue and all future issues will be mailed from Wisconsin. Chester Krause, publisher of the *Numismatic News*, has acquired the *Coin Press* and all rights. This purchase is separate and will not merge with the *Numismatic News*. Mr. Krause informs me the *Coin Press* will be published as is, same name and format. Any inquiries or correspondence should be addressed to Chester Krause, P.O. Box 274, Iola, Wisconsin.

The publisher regrets the situation but lack of support with ads from the Eastern dealers and many others throughout the country has forced this situation along with the high cost of expenses of operating. The publisher feels this could have been avoided had he received a minimum amount of support from the Eastern dealers. This leaves the East without a leading coin publication—something not to be proud of. I can not help but feel this loss will be felt in more ways than one to the collectors and dealers in the East, but as I have stated before, “Paid for advice is little heeded, given free none.”

We have spent thousands upon thousands of dollars building up CPM and the hobby and introduced hundreds of thousands of persons to the art of coin collecting and numismatics, so in any event, we have contributed and supported the hobby. My cliché to this is, “Your helping others was helping yourself.”

With this final editorial my advice to the collector is: If you don't know your coins—know your dealer. Should a new publication arise in the future in the East support it, for you will be protecting the hobby's future and insuring a sound value for your collection and stock.

I would like to thank the many who have supported us in many ways during the past six years and close with my sincere thanks and gratitude along with our staff for having been able and privileged to serve you and our hobby.

**FRANK G. SPADONE**  
Publisher

The thought of having to address a new publication audience was not one of the many that raced through my mind while negotiating for the purchase of "Coin Press." Now that I am faced with the reality of doing so, it is with mixed feelings, untouched by regret.

By way of introduction to those unfamiliar with my name, Chester Krause, "Numismatic News" and Iola, Wisconsin, have been nearly synonymous since 1952. The "News" is an aggressive, twice-a-month coin collector's newspaper which has operated on a down-to-earth high level.

This is the policy which shall continue in both the newspaper and the new magazine. Aside from this common ground, "Coin Press" is a separate entity, free to pursue its own course. As the publisher, I am the only man on the staff at Iola who will be in a position to represent both publications.

Whenever possible, each publication will be represented at conventions and any communication should be directed to the publication for which it is intended.

As you read through our first issue, I hope you will not only absorb its contents but examine it for format and editorial approach. We will continue to be in need of features, short stories and facts of interest. In this connection I urge you to contact our editor, Al Varner. Material should be aimed at the layman collector and written in a lively, concise style and, whenever possible, illustrated with clear, forceful photographs.

We want people to read "Coin Press" not simply because they are numismatists, but because once they pick up the magazine, it will be too interesting to put down.

Our plans for the magazine's format are still in the formative stages. In general, our objective is to present a publication packed with good, solid numismatic information, presented in a manner that will add to every collector's enjoyment of his hobby. We are using a three-column page presentation with larger type because of the obvious advantages of more pleasing appearance and greater legibility.

Offset printing will provide the ultimate in reproducing photographs and illustrations so essential to modern magazine makeup.

A sound policy toward advertising, careful editing and the finest of production methods are some of the basic steps we have made in bringing you this first issue. Our publication frequency will be monthly, with a mailing date providing for your reception of the magazine on or near the first of each month.

Allow me one commercial. Only through greater circulation can we reach the goal of service to you that we hold before us. You can help us serve you. Your recommendation packs far greater impact than anything we might say or do.

Our promise to you, the reader, is that we will do all in our power to provide you with the kind of magazine you can unashamedly recommend to all your numismatic friends.

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**THE BUYER OF 7 1943 COPPER**  
**PENNIES OR LESS FROM DE-**  
**CEMBER TO JUNE 1961 FROM**  
**SKINNY PUERTO RICAN GIRL,**  
**TATOO LEFT HAND**  
ooo  
**(LOUIS) 3 RINGS)**  
**WRITE IN CARE OF EDITOR OF**  
**THIS MAGAZINE.**

Aug. 1

The magazine grew fairly quickly in page count, some of this resulting from KP's greater success in securing major advertisers. The content, however, was not to everyone's liking. Spadone had kept the magazine very folksy, printing many letters from eager but very unknowledgeable readers in which they breathlessly related their "discoveries" of what we now understand are simply examples of strike doubling, die erosion, etc. The emphasis always had been on inexpensive coins, particularly the minor errors and varieties that drew in beginners. Much of this filler material was excluded going forward, as Krause and editor Al Varner replaced it with feature articles written by more knowledgeable collectors and professional writers. Some readers resented the loss of the local coin club atmosphere:

I received my first edition of your *Coin Press* and was very disappointed. There is too much junk in it; not enough interesting reading like the old 'Coin Press.'

I am an ardent admirer of Mr. Frank Spadone's *Coin Press Magazine* due to its excellent coverage of oddities and new finds. I sincerely hope that this feature will be continued. After being subjected to one lengthy paragraph after another extolling the 1913 Liberty nickel, the 1856 Flying Eagle cent and others—rarities that small collectors can only dream of owning—it was refreshing to find one editor interested in the lowly coins of today.

Despite this grumbling, most readers were satisfied enough to continue their subscriptions when *Coin Press* became simply *Coins* with the January 1962 issue. More typical of the letters was this one from Ken Bressett: "The first edition of your new *Coin Press* was excellent. I read every article in it and found it refreshingly new and thoroughly enjoyable."

The selection of covers that opens this article illustrates how this long-running publication became the stalwart that it is today. Also shown is a bizarre ad from 1961 that typifies the "anything goes" nature of Spadone's publication. Interestingly, however, the hobby continues to draw in newbies who have far more enthusiasm than knowledge of coins. I spend hours examining the same kinds of non-varieties and non-errors submitted to NGC for attribution and grading that Spadone received more than 60 years ago!



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**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> Significant Other to a Regular Member    <sup>2</sup> Age 18 or Younger

# The Legacy of Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich

By David F. Fanning

From October 22, 2019 to March 31, 2020, the International Numismatic Club Museum in Moscow held an exhibition devoted to the collection formed by Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich and the publications that he sponsored. The exhibit featured coins, medals, books, and many other objects relating to this great Russian numismatist, including pieces from his own collection. From this exhibit, three books have been published that do much to bolster the legacy of the man and his work after a century of neglect in his own country.

Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich of Russia was born in Tiflis (modern Tbilisi, Georgia) on August 23, 1863, the son of Grand Duke Mikhail Nikolaevich (the youngest son of Tsar Nicholas I) and Grand Duchess Olga Feodorovna (born Princess Căcilie of Baden). During his childhood, the family was living in the Caucasus while Mikhail Nikolaevich was serving as viceroy



Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich.

of the region. This meant that while Georgii Mikhailovich was a member of the extended royal family—he was a first cousin of Tsar Alexander III—he grew up approximately 2700 km away from the seat of Russian power in St. Petersburg.

According to a previously unpublished letter written in 1954 by Princess Xenia Georgievna, the younger daughter of Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich, it was this experience of life in the exotic southeast, closer to Persia and the Arabian peninsula than to Moscow, that helped spark the Grand Duke's numismatic interests:

Most of his boyhood was ... spent in the Caucasus and there it was that he first began collecting these coins. It was in the native markets of semi-Asiatic Tiflis that my father's attention was first drawn to strange and ancient coins that made their appearance there. He began his now famous collection when he was sixteen and kept adding to it right up to the time of the Revolution of 1917.<sup>1</sup>

The Grand Duke's position within Russian society, and the means he had at his

disposal, meant that he was able to form an impressive collection at a young age. It must be said, however, that he brought to his collecting a keen intelligence as well as a deep pocketbook. Of a scholarly turn of mind, he published *Описание и изображение некоторых рѣдкихъ монетъ моего собранія* [*Description and Depiction of Some of the Rare Coins in My Collection*] in 1886.<sup>2</sup> This first foray into numismatic publishing was on a modest scale, with some 37 printed pages describing 44 coins that are handsomely illustrated on seven fine plates. He had, however, much larger ambitions:

I intend soon to begin publishing a full review of post-Petrine numismatics over the years. Such a publication will inevitably require a lot of work and time. Since I propose to start with the publication of the most recent coins, working back to the oldest as individual parts are published, the first parts will be the least scientifically interesting. Meanwhile, my collection, which has now taken a prominent place among the first-class Russian collections, now contains many important and interesting specimens and, I hope, will be constantly replenished with new acquisitions of rare coins. Precise information about such examples is especially interesting to anyone engaged in numismatics, and therefore I decided, without waiting for their publication in the corresponding parts of my proposed work, to share with those interested the information about my most important acquisitions.<sup>3</sup>

The “full-review of post-Petrine numismatics” would become the massive *Монеты Царствования...* [*Coins of the Reign of...*], most of which had been published when the project was disrupted (temporarily, then permanently) by World War I and the Russian Revolution.<sup>4</sup> This remains the most important Russian numismatic work of all time, and is often simply referred to as the *Corpus*. Georgii Mikhailovich managed the project, and had three major collaborators: numismatists Mikhail Gugovich Demmeni, Aleksey Alekseyevich Ilyin, and Christian Christianovich Giel, the last of whom was his personal mentor. While over a century of further study has, of course, improved upon it, it remains a vast foundational work much akin to the *Corpus Nummorum Italicorum* spearheaded by King Victor Emmanuel III.

In 1900, the Grand Duke married Princess Maria of Greece and Denmark (1876–1940) in Corfu; she became styled Grand Duchess Maria Georgievna. While the marriage was not particularly happy, the couple had two daughters, Princess Nina and Princess Xenia. The grand Duchess’s preference for living abroad likely saved the lives of her and the girls, as they found themselves stuck in England when the Russian Revolution broke out in 1917. The Grand Duke himself was not so fortunate, being imprisoned by the Bolsheviks along with many of his relatives. On the morning of January 28, 1919, he, his brother Grand Duke Nikolai Mikhailovich, and cousins Grand Dukes Pavel Aleksandrovich and Dmitry Konstantinovich were roused from their beds at Petrograd Prison, marched to the edge of a mass grave, stripped, and shot.

During the Soviet era, numismatic study in Russia changed considerably. It became unfashionable (and at times risky) to focus attention on the Imperial issues. Instead, considerable work was undertaken on pre-Petrine coinage (those coins pre-



The decorative phototype title page of the second part of the Peter I volume of the Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich's Corpus of Russian imperial coins.

dating Emperor Peter I, the first of the modern Russian Tsars). Archaeological work was conducted on coin hoards and monetary circulation was scientifically studied. Ancient and medieval coins that circulated in what became Soviet territory were investigated and published. Much of this work was rigorous and of high professional quality, but the approach was very much from the perspective of the academic as opposed to the collector. The legacy of pre-Soviet numismatists was largely preserved outside of Russia for most of the 20th century.

The first book to be published in conjunction with the International Numismatic Club Museum exhibition was the exhibition catalogue itself: *Августейший нумизмат. Великий князь Георгий Михайлович. Судьба и наследие* [August Numismatist. Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich. Fate and Legacy].<sup>5</sup> A quarto volume of close to 300 pages, the catalogue illustrates and describes some 235 objects—coins, documents, books, photographs—from public and private collections illustrating some aspect of the life and collections of Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich. Some of the items in the catalogue are unique, and a number of them have never before been published. Chapters are devoted to: a short biography of the Grand Duke; the city of St. Petersburg and its role in numismatic history; the organization of the Grand Duke's Corpus as the work of several numismatists; the Grand Duke as philanthropist and patron of the arts; rewards and honors given by the Grand Duke; and provenance. Supplementary materials include biographical and bibliographical informa-



The three volumes published in conjunction with the International Numismatic Club Museum's exhibit.

tion as well as a reprint of I.G. Spassky's 1989 article on the history and production of the Corpus.

Accompanying the exhibition catalogue is a long-awaited biography of Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich.<sup>6</sup> Written by A.N. Alekseev, *Августейший нумизмат* [*August Numismatist*] traces the life of the Grand Duke from his childhood in Tiflis, through his military career and early collecting experiences, and into the years of his maturity as he conceived his planned Corpus and brought together the talent to assist him in its development and composition. His relationship to Christian Giel is discussed, and the role played by him, the Grand Duke's most important numismatic influence and mentor, is examined. Mikhail Demmeni is also given a chapter. The volume is well-produced and extensively illustrated in color. In addition to numerous photos of the Grand Duke himself, all three of the publications discussed here feature portraits of a number of 19th- and early 20th-century Russian numismatists, which is a nice accompaniment to the photos of coins and medals that usually dominate, for obvious reasons, numismatic publications. Alekseev explores Georgii Mikhailovich's appointment to the position of director of the Alexander III Russian Museum in St. Petersburg, as well as the Grand Duke's plans to donate his extensive collection to the museum if a suitable building were constructed—something that did not end up happening. The tragic end of both the Grand Duke and his grand project are described, but the book prefers to close with a reflection upon the legacy of this great numismatist, the exceptional collection he formed, and his extraordinary contribution to numismatic scholarship.

The third book published in connection with the exhibition is *Августейший нумизмат. Великий князь Георгий Михайлович. Судьба и наследие: Материалы и исследования* [*August Numismatist. Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich. Fate and Legacy: Materials and Research*].<sup>7</sup> This octavo volume of over 460 pages brings together 36 articles examining different aspects of the Grand Duke's life, collections and publications. Edited by A.N. Alekseev et al., the collection is very well-illustrated,

making it of interest to collectors of Russian coins who may not read Russian well. Essays of particular note to readers of *The Asylum* include: one by L.A. Zavorotnaya on the role played by Russian emigrants on the disposition of the Grand Duke's collection; articles by D.Yu. Krivoshey, E.V. Lepekhin, and V.A. Kalinin on the contents of the collection; brief studies by I.V. Shiryakov, A.A. Bogdanov, A.V. Polishchuk and R.V. Krasnov on various aspects of the publication of the Georgii Mikhailovich Corpus; and a series of articles by Krasnov examining in detail the publication of individual volumes of the Corpus. The essays comprising this volume are of great historical importance and one would hope that at least some of them will be translated into English. They shed considerable light upon the composition process of the Corpus, an aspect of this classic numismatic work that has previously been neglected.

These three volumes underscore the importance of Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich's contributions to the development of serious numismatic study in Russia. While his personal achievements as a collector and a scholar were considerable, his true legacy is best appreciated in the context of the projects he managed, using his wealth and connections to undertake massive productions beyond the industry of any one person. While the Grand Duke did not write the Corpus volumes by himself, they could not have been written without him. They stand as one of the greatest achievements in the history of numismatic scholarship, and the International Numismatic Club Museum is to be commended for bringing renewed attention to them.

#### NOTES

1. Letter from Princess Xenia Georgievna of Russia to Edward Gans, dated November 17, 1954 and sent from Glen Cove, New York. In a private collection. In the introduction to *Описание и изображение некоторых рѣдкихъ монетъ моего собранія*, the Grand Duke stated that he began collecting in 1877, when he was thirteen or fourteen.
2. Grand Duke Georgii Mikhailovich, *Описание и изображение некоторых рѣдкихъ монетъ моего собранія* (St. Petersburg, 1886). Only 100 copies of this work were published.
3. Ibid., translated from the introduction.
4. The publication history of the Grand Duke's Corpus can be confusing. Published were volumes on: Alexander II (1888); Nicholas I (1890); Paul I (1890); Alexander I (1891); Alexander III through 1890 (1891); Russian coins struck for Prussia, Georgia, Poland and Finland (1893); Catherine II (two volumes, 1894); Elizabeth I and Peter III (two volumes, 1896); Anna Ivanovna and Ivan VI [Ioann III] (1901); Catherine I and Peter II (1904); and the second of what was to be four volumes on Peter I (1914). The third part of Peter I exists in proof format, but was never formally published.
5. International Numismatic Club Museum [publisher], *Августейший нумизмат. Великий князь Георгий Михайлович. Судьба и наследие* (Moscow, 2019).
6. Alekseev, A.N., *Августейший нумизмат* (Moscow: International Numismatic Club Museum, 2019).
7. Alekseev, A.N., et al. [editors], *Августейший нумизмат. Великий князь Георгий Михайлович. Судьба и наследие: Материалы и исследования* (Moscow: International Numismatic Club Museum, 2020).



# ASSOCIATIONS

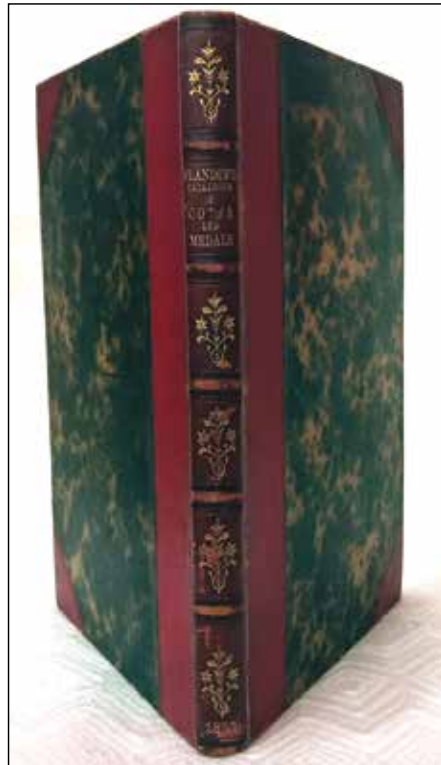
## *Autographs • Annotations • Inscriptions*

### Charles Ira Bushnell's *Flandin's Catalogue of Coins and Medals*: Part I, The Catalog and its Creator

By Joel J. Orosz

When visiting a fellow numismatic bibliomaniac, I always ask a horrifying hypothetical question: “If your library caught on fire, and you had time to save only one of your books, which one would it be?” My host inevitably shudders at the thought of sudden conflagration, and protests that the criteria for selection are unclear. Is it the most valuable book? The rarest? The finest binding? The most scholarly? The most “pedigreed”? Or the most sentimentally valued? When I reply that any one criterion may be applied (or any combination of these criteria), the proprietor invariably ruminates, and usually tries to lessen the agony by naming three or four titles. This ploy is disallowed, for there is but “world enough, and time” to rescue only one. Naming a single volume, as the question requires, is much like naming one’s favorite child. Deep down, you might well have one, but sharp is the agony occasioned by publicly admitting it.

Turnabout being universally recognized as fair play, the author hereby poses this vexing question to himself. My “one to save if I could save only one” is *Flandin's Catalogue of Coins and Medals*. This volume, assembled by Charles Ira Bushnell in 1856, is not the most valuable title in my library, nor the most sumptuously bound, nor boasts the longest list of associations, nor maintains the greatest sentimental value. It is, however, *unique* in the strict sense of that woefully misused term, and while not the most scholarly, it preserves a trove of otherwise unknown early numismatic history, two-thirds of which has never become generally known.



The spine and boards of an early Bushnell Binding, *Flandin's Catalogue of Coins and Medals*, containing three sales, assembled by Charles I. Bushnell in 1856

## The Catalog

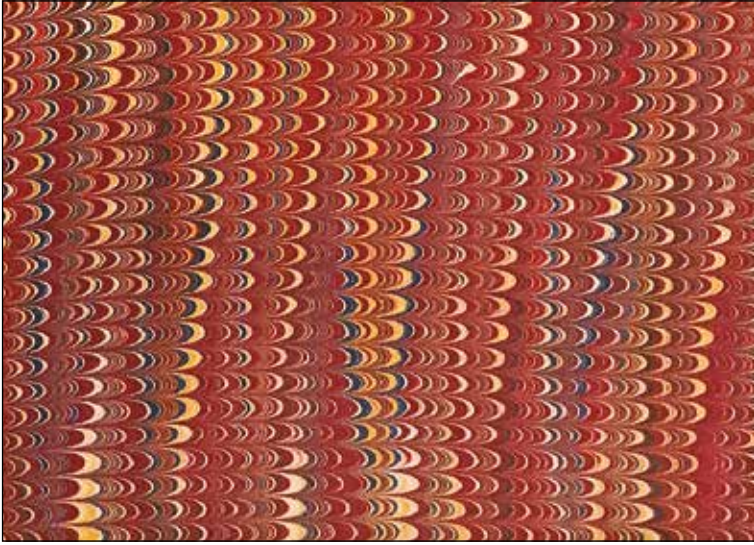
Before delving into this distinctive volume's irreplaceable contents, let it be noted that the spine title tells the truth, but not the whole truth. Yes, the first catalogue bound within is the sale of Pierre Flandin's collection, held on June 6, 1855 at Bangs Brother & Co. Auction sales had been held in New York City during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in which coins or medals were offered as a component of a larger sale of books, art works, or household estates, but the Flandin sale was Gotham's first to consist entirely of numismatic items, and also the earliest-dated New York numismatic auction that a collector may realistically aspire to own. Thus, it fills the same niche in New York that the February 20–21, 1851 sale of the Dr. Lewis Roper collection occupies for Philadelphia.

But the Flandin sale, historically significant though it undoubtedly is, represents only a third of this remarkable Bushnell-curated assemblage. It is joined by a broad-side, which Bushnell carefully trimmed and folded to fit within the binding, of the February 15, 1856 sale at Bangs Brothers & Co. that goes uncredited in Attinelli, although the estimable Emmanuel J. remarks, "The method of offering coins in large lots and the manner of describing them remind one forcibly of the style of the probable owner, Daniel E. Groux." Bushnell confirms Attinelli's supposition that the consignor was indeed the serial scoundrel Daniel Groux, although in this particular case, the self-styled "Professor of Numismatics" appears to have emerged with the short end of the numismatic stick.

Rounding out the triumvirate of sales within this volume is the heretofore unlocated May 17, 1856 sale of the Winslow Howard collection, mentioned but not dated by Bushnell in his writings; dated but not named by Attinelli; and so shrouded in mystery that the author of this column included it among the "missing masterpieces" of American numismatic literature in a 1999 article by that title in *The Asylum*. Accounting for the utter disappearance of the Howard sale from numismatic consciousness was its appearance as an addendum to the Leavitt Delisser & Co. book sale of May 17, 1856. Attinelli believed that this addendum consisted of fifty-five numismatic lots, but had not seen it, so he was unable to name the consignor. The Howard sale, although of significance to the early development of numismatics in New York City, was quickly forgotten because it was buried within an otherwise non-numismatic auction.

Bushnell's assemblage of 1855–56 numismatic sales comprises a truly unique historical record in itself, and it is rendered utterly irreplaceable by the meticulous recording, in Bushnell's own hand (as attested within the volume), of the prices realized for each lot in each sale, as well as the names of the buyers. Moreover, the volume is embellished by its creator with pertinent one-of-a-kind ephemera. Flandin's bookplate is affixed, an ALS from Bushnell to Flandin is tipped in, along with a number of newspaper clippings referring to each of the three sales. All of these features render Bushnell's *Flandin's Catalogue of Coins and Medals* both a work of reference and a foundational document of American numismatics.

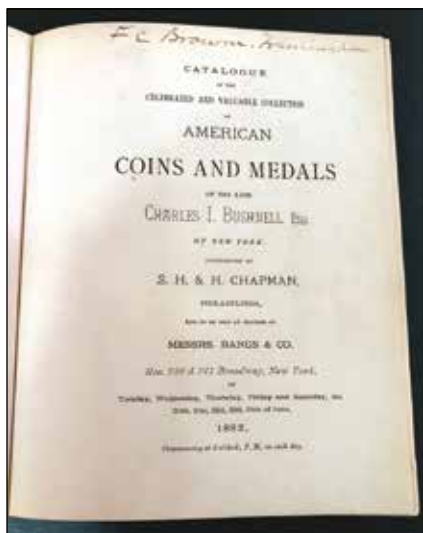
Singular as this volume was, its creator intended for it to be part of a series of numismatic catalogs comprehensively documenting American numismatic auctions



Example of Nonpareil Combed Marble marbled paper from the endpapers of *Crumbs for the Antiquarians*

from the Roper Sale in 1851 onward. Bushnell kept this series current until at least 1860; thereafter it appears to have fallen victim to the rapidly-increasing number of coin collections that were crossing auction blocks in New York, Philadelphia and Boston. He never explicitly stated such an intention, but it can be inferred from the near-completeness of his catalog run, and the uniformity of the “Bushnell Bindings” in which he wrapped these priced and named records of the early coin trade. These volumes are octavo in size, with the Bushnell Bindings featuring red half morocco, complete with raised bands on the spines; with selected compartments ruled and lettered in gilt; and the rest of the compartments ruled and decorated in gilt. The paper sides covering the boards are either a mottled brown, for the earlier volumes in the series (including *Flandin's Catalogue of Coins and Medals*), and for those dated 1859 or later, red marbled paper with blue and tan highlights. This latter marbled paper is the “Nonpareil Combed Marble” manufactured by The Fancy Paper Factory of Aschaffenburg, Germany. Pairing such elegant side papers and endpapers with rich gilt red morocco spines and corners, makes for the quintessential Bushnell Binding.

Bushnell made at least one effort to supplement this comprehensive run of reference catalogs by incorporating early (and rare) periodical literature on American numismatics. Lot 88 of the Twinleaf Library, offered by George Frederick Kolbe on January 10, 2009, was a Bushnell-bound volume containing a pair of pioneering articles on American coinage: “A Descriptive List of American Medals, by James Mease, M.D., of Philadelphia” and “A Description of American Medals by J. Francis Fisher of Philadelphia.” Both had originally been published in *Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, the former in 1834, the latter in 1837. Without doubt, during the



Chapman Bushnell catalog title page. The most controversial—and lucrative—auction up to 1882.



Plate 1 from the Chapman Bushnell Sale, showing the Massachusetts Good Samaritan Shilling, the “fakest coin of them all”

1850s, the contents wrapped within the Bushnell Bindings comprised the heart of the most comprehensive library of American numismatic literature.

From its creation during the 1850s until Bushnell's death in 1880, this series resided in the collector's home at No. 425 4th Avenue in New York. Bushnell's impressive numismatic collection—coins, medals, tokens, pertinent literature—was inherited by his son, Giles Francis Bushnell. The story of its disposition was masterfully recounted by John J. Ford, Jr. in the March–April 1951 issue of *The Coin Collector's Journal*. Giles was besieged by dealers offering to buy his father's collection *en bloc*, but none were willing to pay the asking price of \$10,000. Giles eventually sold everything—for about \$8,000—to the numismatic omnivore, Lorin G. Parmelee, of Boston, who extracted rarities he needed to round out his own superb sets of coinage, medals, and tokens. Parmelee then consigned the still-large accumulation to the young Philadelphia dealers Samuel Hudson Chapman (23 years old) and Henry Chapman (21 years old). Established dealers grumbled about the prize going to such abecedarians as the Chapmans, and a rumor swiftly circulated that the brothers were Bushnell's nephews by marriage. Numismatic biographer Pete Smith has made strenuous efforts to corroborate this story, but has found no evidence to support it.

The “non-nephews” Chapman prepared a catalog calculated to match the magnificence of Bushnell’s collection. Nearly 3,000 lots were extensively described, with a plain catalog offered for 50 cents; a post-sale priced version for \$1.00, and a deluxe limited edition, with 12 phototype plates, for the then unheard-of price of \$10.00. Again, competitors railed about the pretensions of the Chapmans for producing such a large and expensive catalog. David Proskey, W. Elliot Woodward and Ed. Frossard led the pack of competitors who delighted in finding numismatic errors, orthograph-

ic irregularities and mangled descriptions; Proskey sneered that the entire catalog was written in the new and largely incomprehensible dialect of "Chapmanese."

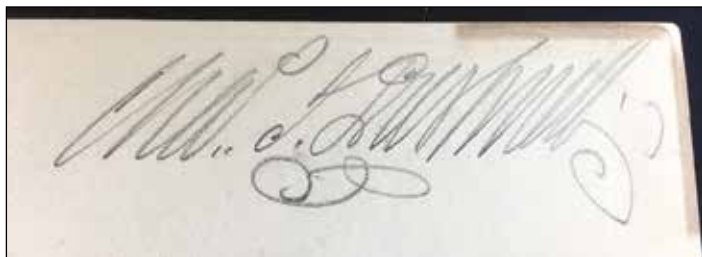
The biggest furor grew out of the inclusion of the Massachusetts "Good Samaritan Shilling," which Bushnell had considered the prize of his collection, and which the Chapmans presented accordingly. Several prominent collectors and dealers, however, denounced it as a fraud. The controversy inspired the Chapmans to issue a post-sale supplement of six pages defending the shilling's genuineness, which did little to silence the critics. Resolution was not reached until more than seven decades had passed; Eric P. Newman, in his *Secret of the Good Samaritan Shilling*, finally demonstrated that it was the "fakest" coin ever manufactured. Never had an American coin catalog caused such consternation in the field, but then again, never had a collection realized so much: a record \$13,900.47.

The Chapmans also included, as lots 2848 to 2999, Bushnell's extensive numismatic library. The pervasiveness of Bushnell Bindings is made clear by a note at the beginning of the numismatic literature section: "*All bound in boards, half red morocco, unless otherwise stated.*" This part of the sale commenced with international numismatic literature, which comprised the first 89 lots. The American literature began at lot 2937, with a prefatory note: "*The following 19 lots are bound as before, and sold so much a volume, without reference to number it might contain.*" In short, a book like *Flandin's Catalogue of Coins and Medals*, though it encompassed one auction sale, one broadside, and one printed addendum, would count as but a single volume. The first six works in the American section are:

- 2937: 1851. Feby. 20. Roper collection, with addenda; somewhat stained; named and priced. Very rare. [realized \$.71]
- 2938: 1852. April 28. Hone collection, mostly paintings. Rare portrait inserted. Extremely rare. [realized \$1.60]
- 2939: 1855. June 6. Flandin collection, A.L.S. and cuttings inserted; also broadside of sale, Feby. 15, 1856. Both priced and named. Very rare. [realized \$1.60]
- 2940: 1855. June 12-13. Kline collection; neatly priced and named. V. rare. [realized \$1.10]



Three "Bushnell Binding" lots from the Bushnell sale—2939, 2941, and 2942—reunited. Note that "Joskett" on the spine of the volume in the middle is a binder's error: proper is "Foskett"



Charles Ira Bushnell's distinctive "verticalized" pencil autograph from the Bramhall sale (lot 2942)

2941: 1859. Feby 28, June 7, May 4. Bogert, Foskett and Bramhall collections priced and named. [realized \$1.00]

2942: 1859-1860. Same as above, and one other; partly priced. [realized \$.65]

The Chapmans obviously did not supply lavish descriptions for Bushnell's books as they had for his coins, medals and tokens. For each lot of catalogs, the terse description omits the auction house or dealer who cataloged the sale. The description for lot 2942, "Same as above, and one other" is particularly uninformative. For lot 2939, the description was indeed rendered in Chapmanese, for although the brothers recognized the rarity of this volume, only the Flandin catalog is adequately described. The consignor of the collection to be dispersed by the broadside is not named, and the presence of the Winslow Howard addendum is not mentioned at all. Despite this lackluster presentation, the Flandin catalog sold for the respectable price of \$1.60.

These six volumes of Bushnell's reference library of early American sales were scattered at auction to different owners. Subsequently, however, several have been brought back under a single roof. Lots 2937 and 2940 have found their way to the incomparable library of Dan Hamelberg, while lots 2939, 2941 and 2942 are reunited in the author's library. There can be no doubt that these books are ex-Bushnell, for besides their distinctive bindings, each contains ephemera relating to the consignors, clippings about the sales, and most definitive (with the exception of the Kline catalog), Bushnell's unmistakable verticalized signature, rendered in pencil.

The presence of the *Flandin Catalogue* as lot 2939 of the 1882 Bushnell sale has long intrigued numismatic historians. In his comprehensive *American Numismatics Before the Civil War*, (1998), Q. David Bowers devoted a section of his chapter 2 to considering it. Bowers noted that the Bushnell collection "...offered what seems to be an exceptional suite of Flandin items," but was puzzled by lot 2939's description, which stated that both the Flandin auction and the "broadside of sale" were priced and named. Bowers, in a footnote, stated: "How *both* could be priced and named is not known to the present writer. Presumably, the broadside was an advertisement for the forthcoming sale, not a separate earlier itemized listing of coins for sale." (p. 45). This was a reasonable assumption, but we now know that these were two separate formats, cataloging two separate collections for sale, and that both were indeed priced and named by Bushnell.

The *Flandin Catalogue*, lot 2939 of the Chapman Brothers 1882 sale of the Bushnell collection, sold to coin dealer Henry Griswold Sampson for \$1.60. Sampson offered it as lot 542 of his Sale #10, on December 20-21, 1883, to an unnamed buyer for \$1.30. It next appeared at auction in Ed. Frossard's Sale #80, the Collections of General Rush Hawkins and L. Bayard Smith, March 9-10, 1888, as lot 811. Subsequent sales and owners are not recorded, until "it came through the hands of Sanford J. Durst decades ago" according to its longtime owner John Lupia (it does not appear in any of Durst's published auctions, so it was acquired by Lupia privately from Durst). The author purchased it from Lupia by private treaty in 2019.

## The Creator

Charles Ira Bushnell was born in New York City on July 28, 1826. Throughout his life, he was frequently misidentified as "Charles J. Bushnell" ("I" served the function of "J" in the Roman alphabet; "J" was a medieval addition, and some confusion in the usage of the two letters lingered into the 19<sup>th</sup> century). An attorney by training, he kept an office at No. 63 Wall Street, although it is unclear if he actively practiced his profession. Just when he was first bitten by the numismatic bug is uncertain, but evidence suggests that it was probably during the late 1840s. We know that he was an advanced collector by 1854, when he paid \$35 to import a rare Rosa Americana pattern twopence from England. Tragically, the SS *Arctic*, which was transporting the coin to Bushnell, sank in the North Atlantic on September 27, 1854, along with numismatic notables Jacob Giles Morris of Philadelphia and Mahlon Day of New York City. Another indication that Bushnell had been a serious and active numismatist for several years comes from a letter he wrote, dated August 1, 1855, to the editor of the *Newark Daily Advertiser* (reprinted in the *Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society*, Vol VII, No. 1, 1856). He described a significant variation in weights among New Jersey Cents, based on a sample consisting of 60 such coppers "which I have taken indiscriminately from a [greater] number in my cabinet."

As we have seen, beginning with the sale of Dr. Lewis Roper's collection in 1851, Bushnell had been building a comprehensive library of catalogs and articles on American coinage. In 1855, he pulled off an auction "home and away" double-header, attending the sale of Pierre Flandin's collection in New York City on June 6, 1855, then traveling to Philadelphia the following week for the June 12-13 sale of the collection of John W. Kline. Bushnell knocked down the first two lots in the Kline sale catalog, and was one of the sale's top buyers. Joseph Mickley, Philadelphia's foremost numismatist, wrote in his journal that "Messrs Bushnell and Burtus paid very high for some American Coins, they were determined to have certain coins." The competitors were apparently convivial, for Bushnell dined with Mickley on the evening of June 13, 1855, and the next day they made a pilgrimage together to the site of the first United States Mint. (See Joel J. Orosz, "Historic Moment: Joseph J. Mickley's Musings About the First 'Coin Convention'", *The Numismatist*, September 2018.)

Bushnell seems to have eschewed fanfare while actively gathering a huge cabinet of coins, medals, and tokens. An exception to this general rule came in June of 1857, when young Augustus B. Sage, writing under the pen name of "Gus," launched a series of articles in the *New-York Dispatch* called "Gleanings of Coins." Bushnell, writing



Charles I. Bushnell, "A.B. Sage's Numismatic Gallery No. 2", obverse and reverse. Image courtesy Stack'sBowers Galleries.

Courtesy of Stack'sBowers.

under the *nom de plume* "Numismatist," quickly intervened, calling out young Gus for errors of fact and interpretation. A numismatic newspaper war ensued for several installments, culminating with Gus conceding defeat. The hatchet was quickly buried, for Bushnell created a medal reading "To Gus, for Valor," and Sage made Bushnell the first subject of his medallic series of prominent numismatists. Their reconciliation lasted for eternity, for both men were buried in Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery. (For the complete record of the skirmishes involving "Gus" and "Numismatist," see Chapter 5 of Q. David Bowers' *American Numismatics Before the Civil War*.)

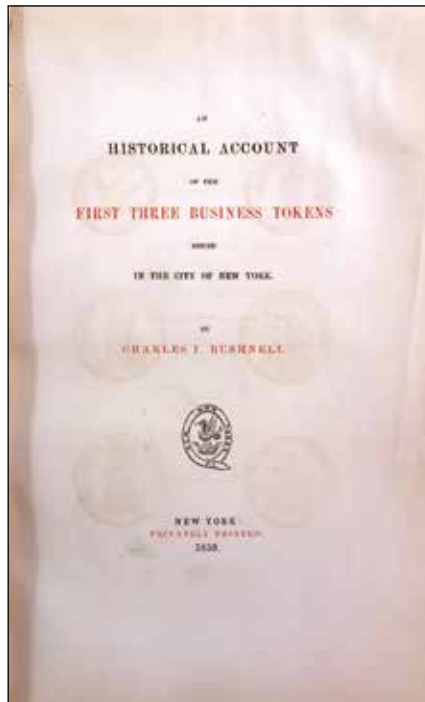
By the second half of the 1850s, as a coin collecting mania swept the nation, Bushnell had emerged as a leading figure in the hobby. His 1859 booklet, *An Historical Account of the First Three Business Tokens Issued in the City of New York*, was privately printed in an octavo edition of 50 copies, intended to be distributed only to the author's friends. Bushnell quickly supplemented it with a duodecimo edition of about 100 copies to satisfy collector demand. It was also reprinted in other formats, such as in David T. Valentine's *Manual of the Corporation of the City of New York for 1859*. (see the author's article on this subject in the Winter 2019 issue of *The Asylum*). But his numismatic reputation had already been secured by a much more substantive and widely-distributed 1858 work, *An Arrangement of Tradesmen's Cards, Political Tokens, Also Election Medals, Medalets & c. Current in the United States of America, for the Last 60 Years. Described from the Originals, Chiefly in the Collection of the Author. With Engravings by Charles I. Bushnell*. Its 118 pages and four woodcut plates comprised the first substantive work on American tokens, and though it has been superseded by later works, it remains a useful reference today. Interestingly, it contains, following p. 118, a list of such tokens sold at public auction in the United States, as of 1858. All of the data—lot numbers, descriptions, prices realized, and names of buyers—are clearly taken from his bound reference copies of the Flandin, Kline, and Howard sales.

These two publications were the fruit of Bushnell's intense scholarly interest in numismatics. He delved into original legal sources, interviewed people who had been involved in coinage production, and picked the brains of coin dealers and venerable collectors. In a May 5, 1854 letter to fellow numismatist Matthew Stickney, today

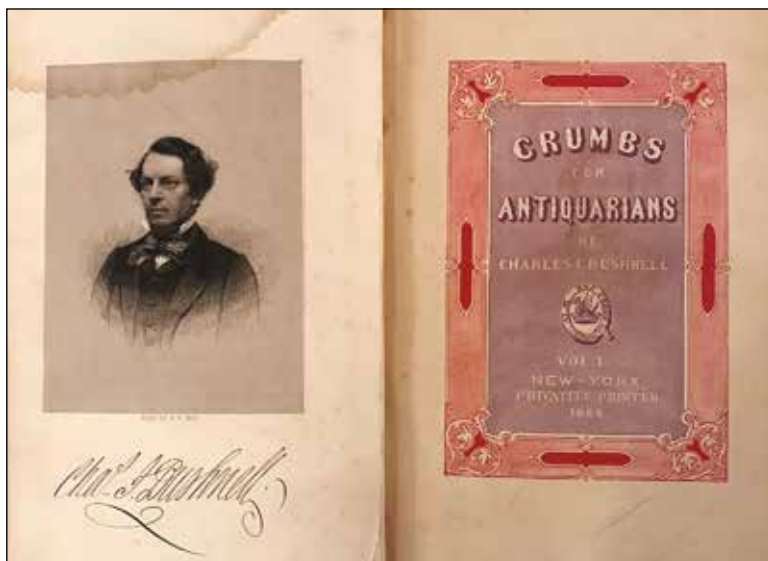
preserved at the Philips Library of the Peabody Essex Museum, Bushnell asked for information on a 1776 Janus Head copper, which he wished to examine for a work he was preparing on early U.S. coinage. In the introduction to his 1858 *An Arrangement of Tradesmen's Cards*, Bushnell, speaking in the third person, gave more detail on his scholarly aspirations:

He would further say that he is now, and has been for several years past, engaged in the preparation of two other works connected with the Numismatology of this country, but of a more extensive and elaborate character. A vast amount of interesting and valuable material has been gathered together, and the result of his labors will be given to the public in due course of time.

This plan for publication was often deferred, but apparently not completely abandoned; Augustus B. Sage, in his "Recollections of a Coin Collector No. 2," published in *The American Journal of Numismatics* in March 1867, expressed hope that Bushnell's manuscripts might yet be published. For whatever reason, however, what would be the "only authentic History of American coinage ever published in this country" (as Sage described it), never went to press. Nor did Bushnell serve as a source of information for the first major works of reference on U.S. coinage. John Hickox thanked



Title page of Bushnell's *An Historical Account of the First Three Business Tokens Issued in the City of New York* from an expanded reprint included in *Crumbs for the Antiquarians*. "Ghost" images of the three tokens transferred from plate on facing page.



Charles I. Bushnell, engraving, facing title page of *Crumbs for Antiquarians*

nineteen people for assistance on his 1858 *An Historical Account of American Coinage*, and Dr. Montroville Wilson Dickeson named six contributors to his 1859 *American Numismatical Manual*, but Bushnell's name was not found on either list. Nor does his name appear among the seven thanked by Attinelli in the Preface of his 1876 bibliography, *Numisgraphics*. We can also remove Bushnell from consideration as the "prominent collector in this city who desires to remain unknown, but whose collection of American coin catalogues is the largest in the country" (The leading contender is Daniel Parish). Bushnell could have filled many gaps in Attinelli's listings, but by 1876, was apparently not interested in so doing.

Eventually, Bushnell lent his manuscripts to Sylvester Sage Crosby, who found them indispensable in the preparation of his classic reference *The Early Coins of America*. On page iv of his *magnum opus*, Crosby gave thanks to twenty-two collectors and dealers, especially "...to Charles I. Bushnell, Esq., of New York, so well known as an indefatigable student and collector, not only of coins, but also of their history, for much of the result of his [Crosby's] labors." The ghost of the Bushnell works that never were manifested itself in the form of Crosby's evergreen reference on Colonials. Today, one of the Bushnell manuscripts, forty-nine pages in length, resides in the American Numismatic Society (see Ray Williams' article on this topic in the April–June 2015 issue of *The Asylum*).

Crosby's masterwork appeared in 1875. By then, it had been eleven years since Bushnell had last published on a numismatic subject, and this was just a revised and slightly enlarged reprint of his *An Historical Account of the First Three Business Tokens*, in the first volume of *Crumbs for Antiquarians*, an anthology of highlights among his historical writings. While Bushnell's scholarly star had dimmed, his numismatic collections still were widely regarded as among the finest. We get a final glimpse of the

numismatic lion in winter through the eyes of a child, Henry Russell Drowne, who visited Bushnell about 1873.

Mr. Bushnell who was then quite advanced in years, had his coin cabinet in a small room in the rear of his house on the second floor. I remember particularly his showing me his rare varieties of 1793 cents—wreath, chain, liberty cap, etc. which I had not seen before; and some of the differences in the cents of 1794. He also showed me his “Good Samaritan Shilling” as something of special interest (of which our good friend Mr. Ryder is now the fortunate possessor), as also the New England and Pine Tree Shilling series. He gave me several coins and medals, some of which I still have. The cataloguing and sale of his remarkable collection by the Messrs. Chapman was, at the time, a great event in numismatics.

In 1873, Drowne was thirteen years old, and Bushnell, described as “quite advanced in years,” was only forty-seven. This can be partially explained by young people's tendency to overestimate the age of adults, but it is also true that Bushnell did not possess a robust constitution (in the “Advertisement” of *An Arrangement of Tradesmen's Tokens*, he stated that its publication had been delayed for two years due to “the continued ill health of the author”). Moreover, the year prior to Drowne's visit, on September 6, 1872, Bushnell had suffered the trauma of losing his beloved teenaged daughter, Anne. Ed. Frossard, in the November 1880 issue of his house organ, *Numisma*, noted that Anne had been Bushnell's “companion and amanuensis in numismatic studies,” and that her death had cause him to relinquish his interest in the hobby.

Bushnell's last years, with his numismatic fires banked, were quiet ones. The September 19, 1880 issue of the *New York Times* carried the following notice:

BUSHNELL—On Friday, Sept. 17, 1880, after a short illness, Charles I. Bushnell. His friends and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral from his late residence, No. 425 4th Av., on Monday afternoon, Sept 20, at 2 o'clock.

Bushnell's brief time on earth came to a close, but his coins and numismatic library succeeded to other owners in other times. The next three ASSOCIATIONS columns will each focus on one of the component pieces of *Flandin's Catalogue of Coins and Medals*: the sale of the Pierre Flandin Collection on June 6, 1855; the broadside sale of one of Daniel Groux's many collections on February 15, 1856; and the addenda sale of the Winslow Howard Collection, on May 17, 1856. Each will introduce principle characters as varied as a pioneering American dealer in the fine arts, the first “Professor of Numismatics,” and a path-breaking American lepidopterist. And each will fill in some of the blanks that have long vexed those interested in the “cradle age” of numismatics in the United States.



18 1788 Mass. 1 cent, uncirculated, or to preceding. Rare.  
 39 1787 Mass. cent, very good. Rare.  
 40 1788 Mass. cent, uncirculated, fine color. Rare.  
 41 1786 "Baby Head." Very fair.

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